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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, March 21, 2019
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room #325

In consideration of

HCR 55, Proposed HD1

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FUNCTIONS
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.**

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** HCR 55, Proposed HD1, which requests the Governor to convene a Department of the Environment and Consolidation of State Environmental Functions Working Group. The working group is requested to consider and make recommendations on consolidating the functions of all the existing state departments, divisions, agencies, and offices that are designated to address environmental issues into a single Department of the Environment.

DBEDT notes that creating a new department takes careful planning and consideration of not only the employees, but also budgetary issues. A working group convened to make recommendations on a new Department of the Environment, with members representing potentially affected departments, divisions, agencies, and offices, would ensure consideration is given to each organization's respective interests.

DBEDT suggests the following changes:

- Page 2, add the Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to the list of members;
- Page 3, line 15, change 2020 to 2021, to afford the working group sufficient time to complete its work; and
- Page 3, line 19, change 2020 to 2021, to allow the working group sufficient time to present to the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

March 21, 2019 9:00 AM Room 325

In SUPPORT of HCR 55 Proposed HD1

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and committee members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HCR 55 Proposed HD1**, requesting the Governor to convene a working group to make recommendations on the consolidation of state environmental functions and the establishment of a Department of the Environment.

The Sierra Club supports creation of a working group to explore a new "Department of Environment" for the state of Hawai'i. While we understand the Legislature might have reservations to expanding government, we believe that it would be beneficial to combine the existing state agencies dealing with environmental issues into a new agency that is streamlined, transparent, and action-oriented.

In 2016, O'ahu voters passed a Charter Amendment to establish a Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency. In the past two years, this new office has made tremendous progress toward advancing a variety of environmental goals (projects like a Resiliency Strategy, Climate Action Plan, and Greenhouse Gas Inventory), while effectively engaging stakeholders and the community via island-wide meetings, presentations, and mass communications. Recognizing the success of this office, there were discussions at the Maui County Council in 2018 to consider a similar charter amendment for Maui County voters. Through the creation of a State Office of Environment, Hawai'i can have even more of an impact and continue our leadership in climate change and sustainability efforts.

We believe the formation of a Department of Environment will help to facilitate discussion about the impacts of climate change, breakdown departmental silos, and initiate sustainability and clean energy projects that will encourage conservation jobs, stimulate our economy, and protect our shared resources for future generations.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HCR 55 HD1**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 10:46:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I offer **STRONG SUPPPORT** for the **Proposed HD1** for House Concurrent Resolution 55.

Just as we now have the Evnironmental Court, the State's environmental functions should be consolidated within and under a new Department of the Environment - not fragmented, disassociated and buried in various departments.



To: The House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019, 9:00 am

LATE

In support of HCR55

Dear EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action supports HCR55.

The current collection of state agencies, departments and offices dealing with environmental issues is a bewildering array of overlapping and ambiguous bureaucracy: DLNR, Planning and Permitting, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, the Office of Environmental Quality Control, and others.

Perhaps combining these departments would save money, confusion, and duplication of effort, while streamlining processes and clarifying responsibilities and communication.

A working group to make recommendations on the consolidation of state environmental functions and the establishment of a Department of the Environment is a good way to discover whether this makes sense.

Please pass HCR55 and let us find the most efficient organization of these environmental efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

LATE

HCR-55

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 11:10:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/21/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: